



FY20 ANNUAL REPORT July 2020

Delaware State Board of Education

401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901

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INTRODUCTION

The Delaware State Board of Education is pleased to present its 2019-20 Annual Report. This report highlights the Board's role in supporting and improving education in Delaware. While much of the Board's monthly meeting time is spent performing its statutory responsibilities such as reviewing and approving rules and regulations and reviewing applications and modifications for charter schools, the Board also deals with a wide range of policy issues. The Board's vision and mission statements along with the five FY20 priorities are contained within this report.

State Board of Education Meetings

The Board's regular monthly meetings are open to the public and are usually scheduled for the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Board rotates locations of regular meetings among Delaware's three counties. From March through June 2020, the Board meetings were held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The schedule for State Board of Education meetings can be [found here](#).

State Board of Education Documents

Minutes and recordings from the State Board of Education's meetings may be accessed through the [Department of Education's website](#). You may also access the State Board's Procedures Manual, membership information, and past reports on the website. Hard copies of these documents may be obtained by contacting the State Board of Education office. Meeting agendas and materials may be accessed on the [State Board of Education's eboard site](#).

Contact Information

You may contact the Delaware State Board of Education through Ms. Whitney Sweeney, President of the State Board of Education or through Ms. Jenna Ahner, Executive Director of the State Board of Education at (302) 735-4010 or jenna.ahner@sbe.k12.de.us.

The FY20 Annual Report can be found on the State Board of Education's website at <http://bit.ly/SBEDelaware>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The 2019-2020 school year has been unprecedented as school buildings closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and protests addressing systemic racial inequities have taken place nationwide. We know that these events have had a tremendous impact on students and they will return to school with grief, anxiety, and unfinished learning. As we move into the upcoming school year the State Board will continue to focus on policies that best support students and educators as they return to learning.

This report provides an opportunity to revisit our commitments from the previous year, celebrate our progress, and look ahead to the future, in addition to serving as a reflection on our progress in fulfilling statutory responsibilities.

We began this year by creating and adopting a new strategic plan, which included updates to our vision, mission, guiding principles, and priority areas. This plan has directed our work throughout the year and will continue to guide our meeting agendas and actions as we move forward. Recent events have only underscored the importance of our first two guiding principles of “equitable opportunities” and “student-focused” education. The Board remains committed to approaching our work through this lens.

One highlight from our year includes the work of the Board’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) subcommittee comprised of more than 30 individuals from throughout the state. This group provided input on the development of our Perkins V plan and helped us to engage a total of more than 550 stakeholders in the state plan development. The work outlined in this plan will expand the programs, advisement, advanced coursework, and work-based learning supports for our CTE students and strengthen the connections between our education and workforce development systems. We look forward to working with the Department of Education to monitor and support implementation.

Further, in June the Board approved an updated Charter School Financial Performance Framework. This framework will provide additional data to assess the financial health and viability of Delaware’s charter schools and will help inform future decisions of the Board.

Lastly, we recognize the importance of working across institutions to support our educational system. This year we have worked with the P-20 Council to discuss major updates related to early childhood development and school readiness, college and career readiness and success, and educator preparation and success. In April, the P-20 Committee on “Educator Supports for Early Literacy

through Institutes of Higher Education” provided recommendations for improving teacher preparation and professional development. We look forward to carrying forward these recommendations in the year ahead and leveraging the Council to support students through the pandemic and beyond.

I encourage you to take the opportunity to read this annual report and get a more detailed look at the actions and activities of the State Board in the past year.

As we move forward, we welcome the opportunity to work with educators and citizens throughout our state to provide a strong public education system for all Delaware students.

Whitney Sweeney

President, State Board of Education

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP



Whitney Sweeney
President



Audrey J. Noble
Vice President



Nina Lou Bunting
Member



Candice Fifer
Member



Vincent Lofink
Member



Provey Powell, Jr.
Member



Wali Rushdan, II
Member



Dorcas Olatunji
Member, Student
Term Expired July 2020



Lea Wainwright
Member, Teacher
Resigned September 2019

The State Board of Education consists of nine members. Seven voting members who are appointed by the Governor, approved by the Senate. Two non-voting members appointed by the Governor.

Background information on each member can be [found here](#).



Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
SBE Executive Secretary

BOARD COMPOSITION AND ACTIVITIES (FY20)

Whitney Sweeney, President, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

P-20 Council, co-chair

University of Delaware Board of Trustees, member (ex-officio)

Charter School Financial Framework Review Work Group, member

Audrey J. Noble, Vice President, term expires 2021

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

P-20 Council Early Literacy Subcommittee, member

H. Fletcher Brown Scholarship Selection Committee, member

Remote Learning Community Group, member

National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE) Board of Directors, member

NASBE Government Affairs Committee, member

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) K-12 Education Recovery Task Force, member

Nina Lou Bunting, term expires 2021

DPAS II Advisory Committee, member

Candice Fifer, term expires 2024

ESSA Advisory Committee, member

Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, member

Vincent Lofink, term expires 2023

CTE Committee, Chair (State Board Committee)

Provey Powell, Jr., term expires 2025

Vision Coalition of Delaware, member

Reopening Schools Working Group, Health and Wellness Committee, member

Wali W. Rushdan II, term expires 2024

Equalization Committee, member

P-20 Council Early Literacy Subcommittee, member

Dorcas Olatunji, term expired July 2020

Lea Wainwright, term expired June 2020, resigned September 2019

FY20 HIGHLIGHTS

This report outlines the work accomplished by the State Board of Education in FY20. Highlights include:

- **Created and adopted a new strategic plan**, including vision statement, mission statement, guiding principles, and priority areas, which will guide work through 2022.
- **Approved amendments to 19 regulations**, relating to DIAA, school attendance, school counseling plans, and certification requirements for nurses, school counselors, and educators, among others. Additional in-depth conversations were held regarding certification for the arts and for repealing regulations for programs that are no longer relevant or in existence.
- **Contributed to 15+ committees** focused on a variety of topics from early literacy through higher education, including COVID-19 response and re-opening, and coordinating with regional and national partners, including State Boards of Education.
- **Facilitated the Career and Technical Education subcommittee**, which included 30+ members and engaged 550+ stakeholders to develop, provide input, and gather feedback on Delaware's Perkins V Plan. The plan was approved by the Board in March 2020 and is aligned with the plans for Delaware's Every Student Succeeds Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- **Approved five charter school renewals, three major modifications, and closely monitored updates from the Department** regarding conditions for one school on formal review, and general updates regarding school operations and enrollment.
- **Facilitated conversations on Delaware statewide assessments**, and concurred with DDOE's proposed cut scores for the science and social studies assessments, and changes to the English Learner Attainment targets included in Delaware's ESSA plan.
- **Closely monitored and discussed the education response to COVID-19**, including regular updates on work underway in Delaware and participation in state and national re-opening conversations.
- **Continued practice of rotating meetings throughout the state**, as started in FY19, with presentations by the following local education agencies (LEA): Sussex Tech, Kuumba Academy, Caesar Rodney, Indian River, Red Clay, and Capital. Each host shared an innovative practice underway in the district or school.
- **Improved communication and engagements routines**, including improving communications materials, website language, and social media presence. Board members presented to or held discussions with a variety of stakeholder groups, and also held its first Student Forum to gather student input and feedback to inform decision-making.

The Board identified the following as areas of opportunity for FY21:

- **Continue to expand communications and engagement with members of the public** regarding education issues aligned with the Board's statutory responsibilities;
- **Further develop partnerships** with local and national partners to inform work and decision-making;
- **Utilize education data and research** to inform Board decision-making;

VISION, MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND PRIORITIES OF THE DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In October 2019, the State Board of Education approved a new strategic plan, including vision, mission, guiding principles, and priorities.

Vision

All Delaware students are engaged in learning that provides a foundation for success, preparing them to transition into postsecondary education and careers, engage with their communities, and continue to learn throughout their lives.

Mission

In collaboration with community stakeholders, the Delaware State Board of Education provides voice and leadership for Delaware citizens to ensure that the education system meets the needs of each Delaware student.

Guiding Principles

- **Equitable Opportunities:** Support high-quality educational opportunities for all students that reduce disproportionate student outcomes by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic conditions, and residence.
- **Student-Focused Education:** Advocate for the development of the whole child, including strong academic, social-emotional, and physical health and safety practices that provide a rigorous, relevant, and relationship-based education.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Engage and collaborate with the community and partners to enrich education policymaking with diverse perspectives that represent Delaware's citizens.
- **Data-informed Decision-making:** Utilize national, state, and local research and data to inform decisions.

State Board of Education Priority Areas

The State Board of Education has identified five priorities to guide its work over the next three years. The priorities are aligned with its statutory and regulatory responsibilities. The State Board recognizes the importance of collaboration with other agencies and organizations to attain these goals. Priorities are not listed in order of importance.

- **Student Well Being:** Strengthen state policy and practice to foster learning environments that support health, safety, and well-being.
- **Foundational Skills and Knowledge:** Leverage partnerships among early learning, K-12, and higher education to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge that contribute to long term academic success.
- **College and Career Readiness and Success:** Build and strengthen state policy and practice to support students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue careers and continuing education.
- **Educator Preparation and Development:** Strengthen state policy and practice to recruit, retain, and develop teachers and school leaders to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to be successful.
- **Partnerships and Innovation in Student Learning:** Engage stakeholders and members of the public, including students, to inform policy and practice. Promote school structures, systems, and initiatives that are innovative and can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community.

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: A YEAR IN REVIEW (JULY 2019- JUNE 2020)

Goal 1: Student Well Being: Strengthen state policy and practice to foster learning environments that support health, safety, and well-being.

- One of the primary functions of the State Board includes providing advice to the Secretary of Education on policies, rules, and regulations through the DDOE, the Professional Standards Board (PSB), and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA). Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of amendments to the following DIAA regulations:
 - Regulation 1007: DIAA Sportsmanship (July 2019);
 - Regulation 1008: DIAA Junior High and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics (July 2019);
 - Regulation 1009: DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics (July 2019).
 - Approval of the following new DIAA regulation:
 - Regulation 1010: Interscholastic Athletics During COVID-19 Pandemic (June 2020) – This was an Emergency Regulation focused on the health and safety of student athletes during the State of Emergency.
 - Approval of amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - Regulation 917: Accelerated Academic Programs (September 2019);
 - Regulation 545: K to 12 School Counseling Programs (September 2019);
 - Regulation 902: Gifted or Talented Education Plan (November 2019);
 - Regulation 851:K to 12 Comprehensive Health Education Program (January 2020);
 - Regulation 615: School Attendance (April 2020).
 - Approval of amendments to the following PSB regulations:
 - Regulation 1522: Elementary School Counselor (November 2019);
 - Regulation 1545: Secondary School Counselor (November 2019);
 - Regulation 1582: School Nurse (April 2020).
- The Board and staff closely monitored and regularly discussed the education response to COVID-19.
 - Received regular updates from DDOE from March 2020 through June 2020 and engaged in dialogue regarding next steps;
 - Approved an extension for school district adoption of the 2020-21 school calendar;
 - Participated in Delaware's re-opening conversations, including:
 - Remote Learning Community Group
 - Reopening Schools Committee (Health and Wellness Committee);
 - Participated in national re-opening conversations, and brought information back to Delaware to inform next steps, including:
 - Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) K-12 Education Recovery Task Force;
 - National Association of State Board of Education (NASBE) webinars and information sessions.

Goal 2: Foundational Skills and Knowledge: Leverage partnerships among early learning, K-12, and higher education to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge that contribute to long term academic success.

- The Board hosted conversations on the following items related to student assessment:
 - Ms. Theresa Bennett, DDOE, participated in a conversation with the Board regarding 2019 assessments results for Smarter Balanced and SAT, including state, district, and charter school results, with disaggregated information by subgroup.

- Ms. Theresa Bennett, Director, Office of Assessment; Ms. April McCrae, Education Associate, Science Assessment & STEM; and Mr. Preston (Dusty) Shockley, Education Associate, Social Studies Curriculum and Assessment, Test Security participated in a conversation on Science and Social Studies Assessment Performance Levels. The State Board concurred with the DDOE regarding proposed cut scores for the science and social studies assessments.
- The Board hosted conversations with content experts and/or took action on the following items related to support for English Learners:
 - Ms. Theresa Bennett, Director, Office of Assessment, DDOE; and Ms. Cary Knight, Field Agent, English Learners, DDOE participated in a conversation on WIDA English Language Development Standards. The State Board concurred with the DDOE regarding the adoption of the WIDA English Language Development Standards.
 - Ms. Maria Paxson, DDOE, participated in a conversation on proposed English Learner Attainment Targets. The State Board concurred with the DDOE regarding the proposed targets to be submitted as an amendment of Delaware's ESSA plan.
- The Board invited the following experts to share information on early childhood education or early literacy:
 - Dr. Christine Alois, DDOE, facilitated a conversation on the Delaware Literacy Plan, including the development of the plan, strategic intents, anticipated outcomes, and next steps.
 - Dr. Kim Krzanowski, DDOE, facilitated an overview of Early Childhood Education in Delaware, including governance, programs, priorities, and timelines and next steps related to the development of the strategic plan.

Goal 3: College and Career Readiness and Success: Build and strengthen state policy and practice to support students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue careers and continuing education.

- The Board took the following action related to its responsibility on the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V):
 - The Board convened four meetings of the CTE Committee. The Committee was comprised of approximately 30 individuals across many stakeholder groups including state agencies, school districts, higher education institutions, the legislature, employers, and others to develop the Perkins V Plan and to develop a recommended stakeholder engagement and input process. In total, the group helped us to engage a total of more than 550 stakeholders in the state plan development. The draft plan was posted for public comment for 60 days. During that time, the State Board and the Department of Education conducted a public information session on the Perkins V plan in each county.
 - Mr. Luke Rhine, DDOE, facilitated regular conversations and updates regarding Perkins V State Plan development (October 2019, December 2019, March 2020). The plan, which is aligned with the Every Student Succeeds Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, was approved by the State Board at the March 2020 meeting. The plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in April 2020. The work outlined in this plan will expand the programs, advisement, advanced coursework, and work-based



Figure 1: Rev. Powell and DDOE staff, Luke Rhine and Lisa Stoner-Torbert, attend a conference to network with CTE leaders from throughout the country.

learning supports for our CTE students and strengthen the connections between our education and workforce development systems.

- The Board hosted conversations with content experts on the following topics related to college and career readiness:
 - Ms. Juliet Murawski, DDOE, on scholarships administered by the Higher Education Office. This presentation focused on scholarships that are outlined in Regulation, and subject to State Board approval. (January 2020);
 - Senator Nicole Poore, Jobs for Delaware Graduates, provided an overview of the program and its impact on students (February 2020);
 - Ms. Lindsay Lewis, DDOE, and Mr. Rhine provided a report on Delaware's 2019 graduation rates, including overall rates, rates by subgroup, and work underway to support student success (June 2020).
- Approval of amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - Regulation 292 - Post Secondary Institutions and Degree Granting Institutions of Higher Education (February 2020);
 - Regulation 1206 – Speech Language Pathologist Incentive Loan Program (February 2020);
 - Regulation 1207 – Delaware Nursing Incentive Program (February 2020);

Goal 4: Educator Preparation and Development: Strengthen state policy and practice to recruit, retain, and develop teachers and school leaders to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to be successful.

- One of the primary functions of the State Board includes providing advice to the Secretary of Education on policies, rules, and regulations through the DDOE and the PSB. Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of amendments to the following PSB regulations:
 - Regulation 1501: Knowledge, Skills, and Responsibility Based Salary Supplements (November 2019);
 - Regulation 1521: Elementary Teacher Education (February 2020);
 - Regulation 1571: Special Education Teacher of Students With Disabilities (April 2020).
 - Regulation 1572: Teacher of Students Who Are Gifted or Talented (June 2020).
 - Approval of repeal of the following DDOE and PSB regulations:
 - Regulation 240: Recruiting and Training of Professional Educators for Critical Curricular Areas (April 2020);
 - Regulation 1508: Special Institute for Teacher Licensure and Certification (April 2020);
 - Regulation 1509: Meritorious New Teacher Candidate Designation (April 2020).
 - The Board held extensive conversations regarding Regulation 1549 - Dance Teacher, Regulation 1558 – Theater Teacher, Regulation 1560 – Art Teacher, and Regulation 1563 – Music Teacher. Feedback was provided to the PSB for future consideration.

Goal 5: Partnerships and Innovation in Student Learning: Promote school structures, systems, and initiatives that are innovative and can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community.

- Beginning in September 2018, the Board began rotating its regular monthly meetings throughout the state. Board meetings were held in the following school districts or schools: Sussex Technical School District, Kuumba Academy, Indian River School District, Red Clay Consolidated School District, and

Capital School District. School districts hosting the meetings were invited to provide a presentation regarding innovative work underway in the district. The following were provided:

- **Sussex Technical School District:** Superintendent Guthrie and Sussex Tech staff provided a presentation on career and technical education at Sussex Tech. Discussion was held on programs offered, the district's strategic plan, recent changes at the school, core beliefs, outcomes, and expectations by grade level.
- **Kuumba Academy:** Head of School, Sally Maldonado, and Kuumba Academy staff provided a presentation on expeditionary learning, trauma-invested approaches, and extended learning opportunities.
- **Caesar Rodney School District:** Superintendent Fitzgerald, staff, and students provided a presentation on computer science in the Caesar Rodney District. They shared information regarding the Computer Science pathway, efforts to increase representation of female students, and initiatives underway in the district, including "Go Red for STEM", "Coding with Kindergarteners", "Bring a Friend to Code Day", "Girls Who Code", elementary STEM day, a partnership with the National Center for Women in Technology, the DigiGirlz event, and the Girls Go CyberStart competition.
- **Indian River School District:** Superintendent Steele provided an overview of work underway in the district, including information on schools, population demographics, program availability, major district programs, including CTE and dual enrollment, and accomplishments of the district.
- **Red Clay Consolidated School District:** Superintendent Green provided an overview of work underway in the district and provided information about Red Clay's strategic plan and work underway in the district.
- **Capital School District:** Dr. Sylvia Henderson, Mr. Paul Dunford, and Mrs. Cathy Schreiber presented on the Capital School District's teaching and learning model. Presenters provided information about the development of the District's teaching and learning model, stakeholder engagement, the theory of action, the roll out of the plan, and connections to professional learning opportunities.



Figure 2: Students and staff from the Caesar Rodney School District present to the State Board.



Figure 3: Superintendent Green presenting to the State Board in the Red Clay School District.

- The Board recognized the following groups or individuals:
 - Delaware students Zaria Hathorn and Hailey Willard: The Board recognized Zaria Hathorn and Hailey Willard by presenting them with State Board of Education Order of Excellence for their outstanding support toward the vision and mission of the State Board of Education and for their contributions to their community and Delaware education.
 - School Bus Poster Winners. A statewide school bus safety poster contest was held in



Figure 4: Zaria Hathorn and Hailey Willard with the State Board of Education.

September to promote National School Bus Safety Week, October 21-25, 2019. The three winning posters at the State level were submitted to the National School Bus Safety Week Committee for final judging at the National Association of Pupil Transportation Conference. The winners were as follows:

- Gavin Kaiming Chee, Grade 1, North Star Elementary School, Red Clay Consolidated School District
- Nicole Chee, Grade 5, North Star Elementary, Red Clay Consolidated School District
- Julia Buoni, Grade 11, Sussex Tech High School, Sussex Tech School District

- Delaware 2020 State Teacher of the Year. Ms. Rebecca Vitelli, Colonial School District, was recognized for her accomplishments and dedication to her students. She provided information on her experience with remote learning during COVID-19.



Figure 5: Delaware State Board of Education with School Bus Safety Poster Contest Winners.

- Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Award Finalists. Ms. Kathleen Olenderski (2017, Mathematics), Alfred G. Waters Middle School, Appoquinimink School District, Ms. Jennah Truitt (2018, Mathematics), Lord Baltimore Elementary, Indian River School District, Ms. Danielle Rash (2018, Science), Olive B. Loss Elementary, Appoquinimink School District.

- The Board has made efforts to expand communications, community engagement and partnerships through attendance at events, such as the annual Teacher of the Year dinner, school visits, as well as presenting information regarding the work of the Board to stakeholders such as the district superintendents, the Secretary of Education's Teacher Advisory Group, and the House of Representatives Education Committee.



Figure 6: Mr. Lofink and Ms. Ahner visit Eisenberg Elementary in the Colonial School District.

- The State Board of Education website and e-board site were updated to be more clear and user-friendly. The Board seeks opportunities for more in-depth engagement via social media, email, and events. This strategy will continue to develop in the next fiscal year.

- The State Board of Education partners with the Secretary of Education on actions related to charter schools. The Board invited DDOE's Charter School Office to participate in regular conversations during meetings, including discussion regarding school operations, enrollment updates, and a presentation of the annual report compiled by the Department. One Board member sits on the Charter School Accountability Committee in an ex-officio capacity. Throughout the year, the following actions were taken:

- Formal Review of Odyssey Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to place Odyssey Charter School on probation until June 30, 2020 with a list of conditions related to their financial and governance policies, with required deadlines.
 - The Board received monthly updates on the status of the implementation of the conditions. The Board held lengthy conversations regarding the status of implementation, timelines, and next steps.
 - In February 2020, the Secretary placed Odyssey on Formal Review for a second time for violation of probation conditions.
 - In April, the Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and noted that Odyssey Charter School had met probation conditions outlined in the February 2020 notification letter.
 - In June, the Secretary announced that Odyssey had met the conditions and they have been removed from probation.
- Renewal of Charter School of New Castle: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for the Charter School of New Castle for five years. The Board requested that the Department monitor ELA proficiency scores.
- Renewal of East Side Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for East Side Charter School for five years.
- Renewal of Gateway Lab School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Gateway Lab School for five years. The Board requested that the Department monitor enrollment growth, specifically as they look to expand, and monitor the hiring of educators prepared to serve the needs of the school's population.
- Renewal of Las Americas ASPIRA Academy: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Las Americas ASPIRA Academy for five years.
- Renewal of Odyssey Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Odyssey Charter School for five years.
- Major Modification of Academy of Dover: The Board concurred with the Secretary's decision and approved the major modification request of the Academy of Dover. The Board requested that the Charter School Office carefully monitor enrollment during the expansion.



Figure 7: Ms. Olatunji visits Carrie Downie Elementary in the Colonial School District.



Figure 8: Board members with Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Award Finalists.

- Major Modification of Newark Charter School: The Board concurred with the Secretary's decision and approved the major modification request of Newark Charter School with the following condition: (1) the development, approval, and implementation of an outreach plan to significantly increase, consistent with the public school population it serves, the diversity of Newark Charter School going forward. The outreach plan should specifically address communication with the families of low-income and special education students.
 - Major Modification of Sussex Academy: The Board concurred with the Secretary's decision and approved the major modification request of Sussex Academy. The Board requested that the Charter School Office monitor diversity of Sussex Academy's enrollment in the K-5 school and report that information back to the State Board.
- Board members participated in a committee to review and update the Charter School Financial Framework. Board members recommended community members to participate to bring an additional level of expertise. A municipal analyst from Wilmington Trust specializing in charter school and higher education debt joined the committee. The updated Financial Framework was approved by the Board (June 2020) and will go into effect in FY22.
 - The Board completed its strategic planning process to update the Board's vision, mission, guiding principles, and priorities. The strategic plan was approved in October 2019. The plan is available on the [State Board of Education's website](#).
 - To ensure time is spent most efficiently on our priorities, the Board held a strategic planning meeting in June 2020 to review the status of outlined priorities and reflect on opportunities to improve for the upcoming fiscal year. With facilitation and input from NASBE, the Board discussed strengths and opportunities relating to the Board's mission and goals, Board agendas, Board operations, and stakeholder engagement. The Board intends to utilize these results to inform Board practice and aims to conduct these conversations annually to support effective Board operations. As a part of this conversation, the Board reviewed the average time spent on agenda items. More information can be found in the appendix of this report.
 - Student Board member, Dorcas Olatunji, planned and facilitated the State Board's first Student Education Forum in Kent County. The Forum focused on gathering feedback from students on education issues. Additional forums were scheduled for New Castle and Sussex Counties but were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The Board continues to build partnerships with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and members attended the Annual Conference and regular webinars and "office hours" in an effort to learn from State Boards nationally. The Board's Vice President sits on the Board of Directors and regularly brings back feedback and lessons learned from other states to inform Board decision-making.
 - State Board of Education members were involved in a variety of committees on education, including the University of Delaware Board of Trustees, Teachers Advisory Committee, Equalization Committee, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Advisory Committee, Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA) Board of Directors, among others. Information regarding committee membership and Board member participation can be found on page 6.
 - The P-20 Council, co-chaired by the President of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education, met five times during the 2019-20 school year to hear reports, receive updates on committee activities, and recommend next steps related to P-20 Council priorities. The summary of those activities are noted below:



Figure 9: Students provide feedback at the Kent County Student Education Forum.

- General updates
 - Discussed 2019 Legislative and Budget Updates;
 - Discussed and finalized P-20 Council strategic priorities, routines, and next steps;
- Early Childhood Development and School Readiness:
 - Facilitated a subcommittee focused on “Educator Supports for Early Literacy through Institutes of Higher Education” which generated recommendations on improving teacher preparation and professional development to support early literacy. The Council received the recommendations and discussed short and long term next steps;
 - Discussed the Early Childhood Strategic Plan process, priorities, engagement, and anticipated next steps;
- College and Career Readiness and Success
 - Discussed Perkins V Career and Technical Education plan development and next steps;
 - Received regular updates on the development of the college success reports and the development of the College Readiness Frameworks;
 - Received regular updates on dual enrollment review, cost surveys, and potential next steps.
- Educator Preparation and Success
 - Discussed work underway to support educator preparation, specifically to support year-long residencies;
 - Discussed opportunities for supporting teacher recruitment efforts, across institutions.
- The Board invited experts to provide information and engage in discussions on the following items related to this strategic priority:
 - 2019 Legislative and Budget Update;
 - Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA) Update;
 - Report Card and Accountability Update;
 - DDOE FY20 Budget Request;
 - Redding Consortium for Educational Equity.

APPENDIX

FY20 Regular Monthly Meeting Date*	<u>Total Meeting Time**</u>	<u>State Board Business/ Committee Reports</u>	<u>Secretary's Report and Remote Learning/ Reopening Schools</u>	<u>Presentations or Discussions on Education Topics***</u>	<u>Charter Schools</u>	<u>Regulations</u>
Approximate Number of Minutes Spent on Each Topic						
July 18, 2019	120	17	5	20	33	34
August 15, 2019	176	24	4	126	21	0
September 19, 2019	140	38	8	57	9	14
October 24, 2019	173	32	10	60	22	46
November 21, 2019	200	20	6	71	23	76
December 19, 2019	161	22	6	62	47	12
January 16, 2020	189	22	2	84	42	33
February 20, 2020	220	23	3	109	40	30
March 19, 2020	93	0	7	24	34	1
April 23, 2020	193	24	35	0	68	47
May 21, 2020	174	18	36	17	75	10
June 18, 2020	192	38	46	36	18	38
Percentage of Time Spent By Topic		11.82%	8.27%	32.79%	21.27%	16.79%
Average Meeting Time		2.82 hours				

*Only regular monthly meetings are listed. This does not represent time spent in strategic planning, professional development, or special meetings to address Board business.

**Total meeting time is approximate and may not be equal to a summary of the times listed due to other topics covered, public comments, or opening remarks. Opening remarks and opening business take additional time during virtual meetings.

***Includes presentations and information from districts, or presentations from subject matter experts on Board responsibilities such as Perkins V, assessments, and others to help inform Board decisions.